

**Regarding development of Waterway connectivity in the River Brahmani in Odisha to revive the past glory of Kalinga**

**DR. RABINDRA NARAYAN BEHERA (JAJPUR):** Thank you, Madam Chairperson, for giving me this opportunity to raise my topic in Zero Hour.

It was decided to develop waterway connectivity in the River Brahmani in Odisha and its branches Kharasrota and Kelua and other rivers of Odisha under the development of National Waterways (NW-5) by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and other stakeholders, like Dhamra Port Company, and Paradip Port Trust for mineral and cargo transportation.

In the early days, the Sadhabas of Kalinga used to travel Java, Sumatra, Borneo, and other Asian countries for trading on the country boats through these rivers. This is an alternate to reduce road congestion and traffic control for mineral and cargo transportation, and simultaneously, to bring back the maritime heritage of Kalinga. In 2010, a tender was floated in this regard.

I request the hon. Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways to kindly look into this matter and revive the past glory of Kalinga by bringing back this project. A time frame in this regard may be communicated.

Thank you.